

**Memorial Town Hall, 1 Library Street, Georgetown, MA 01833**  
**Ph. (978) 352-5755 □ Fax (978) 352-5727**  
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES**  
**Memorial Town Hall**  
**11/16/15**  
**7:00PM-General Meeting~3<sup>rd</sup> floor meeting room, Town Hall**

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**Selectmen Present:** Philip Trapani, Chairman; Gary C. Fowler, C. David Surface,  
Douglas W. Dawes, Clerk

**Others Present:** Michael Farrell, Town Administrator; Janet Pantano,  
Administrative Assistant

**Absent:**

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**Call to order**

Invocation-Douglas W. Dawes  
Pledge of Allegiance

*Appointment to the Board of Registrars term to expire 6/18/2015.*

Henry Wolf, 64 Nelson St.

Mr. Trapani welcomed Mr. Wolf. Mr. Dawes explained that they had two openings on the board of Registrars and they have had a hard time filling the positions. Mr. Fowler stated that Minda Fowler is fine with not being appointed as she only applied if no one else came forward. Mr. Trapani asked Mr. Wolf for some background info. Mr. Wolf stated he has lived in town for 15 years, gave some background information and stated that he has not been involved in town and thought this would be a good way to start. Mr. Trapani thanked him for stepping forward.

**Mr. Dawes moved to appoint *Henry Wolf* as a *Board of Registrar Republican* term to expire **June 30, 2016**. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a **unanimous vote**.**

**Warrant & Minutes**

*Warrant to be signed*

*Minutes November 2 & 9, 2015*

**Mr. Surface moved to approve the minutes of November 2, 2015. Mr. Dawes seconded the motion.**

Discussion Mr. Fowler had an amendment.

**Mr. Fowler moved to approve the amendment. Mr. Dawes seconded the motion and the amendment was approved by a unanimous vote.**

**The original motion was approved by a unanimous vote.**

**Mr. Surface moved to approve the minutes of November 9, 2015. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.**

## **BOARD BUSINESS**

### *Open Space Plan-ConCom to be present*

Steve Przyjemski, ConCom Agent and Laura Repplier, ConCom member were present.

Mr. Trapani welcomed them and thanked them for working on the Open Space Plan. He stated that he wanted them to give a summary of the document and some information from them on how the plan relates to Parcel F. Ms. Repplier handed out two pages one is table of contents of plan and who participated. She stated that the last plan was done in 2008. She stated that Harry LaCortiglia has put many hours into the plan along with Peter Burns from GAA, Jeff Wade from the Rec Path and also Dick Talbot who is no longer in town. She stated that George Comiskey has put the document together. She explained parts of the document as first few sections a history, section 5 is an inventory of lands that they care for and municipal lands. She stated that section 6 is more modern and is a community vision section. She stated that they did study first in 2009 and then again 2013 with Brown and Walker and then a 6 month long survey which gathered a lot of information.

Mr. Trapani read a paragraph from the vision section. He stated that he felt this is valuable to town officials. He stated that they have done a lot of work and that there is still a lot to do. Ms. Repplier stated that they have a lot of volunteers helping with projects. She stated that at the last meeting they had residents in about the Milfoil in Rock Pond and that the group is very active and doing the right thing.

Ms. Repplier stated she gave them a list from Section 7 new themes. She discussed clean up around aquifer and the purchase of land around the aquifers, protecting ponds, scenic view of town, protect flood plain, and improve access to ConCom land. She stated that section 8 goals and recommendations and she read them. She stated that section 9 is the implementation of goals and to achieve the goals of the plan, then environmental goals, and protect habitat for endangered species. She stated that next are recreational goals and she stated that we have a lot of popcorn of parcels and they would like to link the parcels. She stated that they would like to create the link and they have a start with the recreational path. She stated that they should have a maintenance plan with a 5 year plan. She stated that they have worked with GAA on maintenance plans on fields and ADA compliance of parcels. She stated that they have many volunteers and have had active groups and they need to maintain these groups. She stated that they need to provide access to open space lands in town. She stated that they need land in Martel Street area need to protect historic and scenic landscapes. She stated one of the latest projects was protecting Wheeler Brook Farm.

Mr. Trapani stated that he takes a lot of this property and resources in town for granted. He stated that this plan is extremely helpful.

Mr. Fowler stated he enjoyed her enthusiasm this evening. He stated that he has said that he does not want to give land to ConCom. He stated that they have to work to get people out to enjoy the land and he sees that the budget is an issue. He stated that they have think out of the box can we harvest some trees to clear paths, etc. He stated that in the past there were a lot of fire roads and farmers kept these open. He thanked them for all their work on the plan.

Ms. Repplier stated she did a site walk with a forester off of Long Hill Road on a parcel over 100 acres and has seen what the forest was like when it was selectively forested. She stated that they need to look at this and it could be profitable and is plausible to do this in town. Mr. Trapani stated that he read recently about issues with reforestation and the issues it is causing.

Mr. Dawes stated that this is a good body of work and having Ms. Replier here to go over the plan has been helpful.

Mr. Trapani stated that it is helpful to have a plan and that it aligns with goals is helpful. He asked about land at Parcel F and the two easements. He stated a 25ft and 50ft easement and asked Mr. Przyjemski to explain them. Mr. Przyjemski stated that the easement is from the Planning Board and the ConCom only asked for a 25 ft. easement for access to trails. He stated a 50 ft. easement he would presume for additional access and vehicles. He stated the Planning Board added the 50 ft. easement. He stated that there are no plans for the land on paper or for fields or emergency access at this time. Mr. Farrell stated that he believes that the former owners of the land behind Turning Leaf asked for the easement to access their land which we now own.

Mr. Aulson stated that he and Jim Tolman went to landowner and asked for the 50 ft. easement as they owned the land in back and wanted access. Mr. Trapani stated so the easement is now access to the land in the back which the town owns.

Jean Nelson, Searle St stated she has copy of PB decision and it only addresses a 25 ft. easement. She stated that she knew of the easement of Mr. Aulson and Mr. Tolman.

Mr. Trapani stated that the 50 ft. easement is for access to land that the Park & Rec would like to purchase in the future and that nothing is planned for now. He asked Mr. Przyjemski if that is what he knows. Mr. Przyjemski stated that he has not seen a plan but that they have access for trucks off of Martel Way and he does not know of a need for another access. He stated both accesses require a wetland crossing. He stated that the only plan he has seen shows a walking path. Mr. Trapani stated that it seems that the Park & Rec has not known of the project until the eleventh hour. Mr. Przyjemski stated that this has been in the process for a long time and all boards were aware of the project. He stated that the Park & Rec has never voted on this Parcel F. He stated that this is a science to protect the land and flooding to neighbors. Mr. Trapani stated the Park & Rec would have to have a plan to put something in this area. Mr. Przyjemski stated he believes that a member of the Park & Rec is asking for the land not the Park & Rec. He stated that ConCom is protecting the land for residents. Mr. Trapani stated that he has been told that the town would not be able to do anything with land if given to the ConCom. Mr. Przyjemski stated that the commission would work with any board on access. Mr. Trapani stated that they are having this conversation because the board was told that in the future that they would be handcuffed with what the town could do with the land that the Park & Rec proposes to obtain in the future.

Ms. Replier stated that she does not know what the plan is for this land from other boards. She stated that she does not understand what that access is for the land or that access. She stated that the residents need their protection. She stated that the land is very hilly and cannot see any road in the area. She stated that the residents see it as a road if a gated emergency access that is different. Mr. Trapani stated emergency access to land. She stated that if a gated access they are okay but not a road. Mr. Trapani stated an emergency access and a road for construction equipment. He stated he does not want to stop a future project.

Mr. Fowler stated that he has a letter from counsel stated that neither Planning Board nor ConCom can ask for the land. The landowner gave the land to the town. He stated that the parcel could have been used for mitigation. He stated that Mr. Trapani is concerned for future needs and he feels the parcel can stay under the care of the BoS. He stated that from CPC he has heard of a land purchase and part of the Greenway and has heard of a field in the area. He stated that he has not heard of plans to put trails in the area at the time.

Mr. Surface stated he still does not know what to do with the land. He stated that he is still confused. Ms. Repplier stated that she is also confused if they are concerned about the land or easement. Mr. Przyjemski stated that it is all one and the land is very wet not good for fields.

Mr. Trapani stated that if the land is in the care of the ConCom it has been stated that they would not grant an easement in the future. He stated if given to Park & Rec then they could go to ConCom to see how they could put in an access. He stated that he does not want to stop the discussion.

Ms. Repplier stated that she is concerned with giving land to someone who would not protect it and explained why. She stated she would not give the land to someone who would not protect the land for residents and explained trees that have been removed.

Mr. Surface stated that the land is now for municipal use. He stated that he feels leave with this board for now. He stated that when someone comes and asks then they can make a decision. Mr. Przyjemski stated that does not protect the land for perpetuity. He stated that the ConCom and Planning Board have voted for the land to be under the care of the ConCom and the Park & Rec has not voted at all. Mr. Trapani stated at a meeting it was stated that the easement was needed for a road. Mr. Przyjemski stated one member of Park & Rec has stated this but not the board and there has been no vote. Mr. Trapani stated that he is correct and he is hearing two different things landlocked by Park & Rec and not so by ConCom. He stated that he would like to see a map and have the Park & Rec attend a joint meeting and make the best decision for the town.

Mr. Dawes stated that from discussions this land was to go to the ConCom and that there is better access to the back property from Martel Way. He stated that this all depends on acquiring additional lots. He stated that we have kicked the can and keep as municipal use but the abutter's rights are important. He stated either leave municipal but he would side with abutters.

Ms. Repplier asked if ConCom can allow Park & Rec to put in an emergency access. Mr. Przyjemski stated that they would not allow a paved road. Mr. Surface stated he would like to see a plan with all the lots. Ms. Repplier stated that a group has been trying to complete the greenway for years and who knows when and if this will happen.

Ms. Nelson stated that the PB decision states a 25 ft. right of way and the board should go out and look at the parcel again. She stated that this easement is in someone's yard. She stated that the Planning Board made a recommendation in August recommending the land be in the care of the ConCom. She asked why the town has use of the easement.

Mr. Trapani stated that the easement came with the property when it was acquired. He stated that he gets that the land was given to the town. He stated that he does not want to tie the town's hands.

Mr. Aulson stated why have to do anything now and why in perpetuity. He stated that he was always led to believe that the land should be available to the public.

Mr. Trapani stated that he believes that they have a duty to the abutters to make a decision.

Mr. Trapani thanked both for coming in and wants a joint meeting together with ConCom, Park & Rec, and Greenway map to discuss access to the land.

**ITEMS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED BY THE CHAIR 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING**

**SELECTMEN'S REPORT**

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

*Update Visioning Session*

Mr. Farrell stated that next step is to get the steering committee together. He stated that the Collins Center will put information from the meeting together with the steering committee and then go back to the public for comment and then the steering committee will finalize the vision statement. He stated that the steering committee has not been developed and that they want 6-8 members and now have 4. Mr. Fowler asked why you have to act quickly. Mr. Farrell stated that they prefer to meet while the information is fresh in everyone's mind. Discussion on a date for steering committee meeting. Mr. Farrell stated that the steering committee will put together a draft vision statement.

*Update Special Town Meeting*

Mr. Farrell stated that the meeting went well.

*Senior Center MOU*

Mr. Farrell stated that they had the second meeting with School Department on the MOU for the Senior Center and when wording is set it will go to both boards. He stated he hopes construction will start mid-December and will also do some minor demolition. He stated talked with architect and can phase winter to spring and hopefully finish with CPC in the summer. Mr. Trapani asked Mr. Dawes if he had any feedback on the MOU meeting. Mr. Dawes stated that schools being gracious and only a couple details on wording. He stated that Chief Cudmore will be asked to look at security. Mr. Fowler asked if this format has been used in other towns and also asked if Town Counsel got back to us on Historic Rehabilitation of the center for CPC. Mr. Farrell stated that there are a few other towns that have a center in a school and he will talk to counsel.

*Update State of the Town*

Mr. Trapani stated that they held the State of the Town on Monday, November 9, 2015 and a good job by all involved. He asked if Mr. Farrell if he would work with the Chiefs on their goals.

### **APPOINTMENTS & APPROVALS**

*Request to proclaim November DECA Month from Lisa Ryer, Business Teacher*

**Mr. Surface moved to proclaim November DECA Month. Mr. Dawes seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.**

#### *State of the Town*

Mr. Fowler stated that he was glad to hear Mr. Trapani state that he would like to have more boards come in report to the board and town. Mr. Trapani stated that we can invite boards to a separate meeting and or a regular meeting. Discussion on quarterly or semiannually updates. Mr. Trapani stated that he would work with Mr. Farrell and come up with a calendar and have boards that reported and other boards update the board.

*Letter of Appreciation to Andrew Frasier, Boy Scout Troop 51 for work at Union Cemetery.*  
Board signed the letter of appreciation.

#### *Veterans' Office open position*

Mr. Dawes stated that the Veterans office is looking for an administrative assistant. Applicants should apply to the office in Ipswich.

### **NEXT MEETING**

Monday, November 30, 2015 at 7:00PM, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor meeting room, Town Hall

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Mr. Dawes moved to adjourn. Mr. Surface seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Minutes transcribed by J. Pantano.

Documents used in meeting:

- Minutes November 2 & 9, 2015
- Open Space Plan documents
- Request to proclaim November DECA Month from Lisa Ryer, Business Teacher
- Appointment to the Board of Registrars letters
- Letter of Appreciation to Andrew Frasier, Boy Scout Troop 51 for work at Union Cemetery.

Minutes approved February 17, 2016.